GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5928
ANSWERED ON:31.08.2001
EXPORT OF WHEAT AND RICE
PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Iraq is a major importer of Indian wheat and rice;

(b) if so, the details of wheat and rice exported to Iraq during the last three years;

(c) whether export of wheat and rice from India to Iraq has decreased;

(d) whether the Government of India has taken any measures to maintain the quality of wheat as per the norms of Iraq; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION(SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN)

(a),(b)&(c): There was no export of rice to Iraq during 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 (April-May, 2001) and wheat during 1999-2000. During 2000-2001, a quantity of 23,600 MT ofwheat has been exported to Iraq as per provisional figures contained in the Foreign Trade Statistics of India compiled by the Directorate general of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, Ministry of Commerce & Industry. However, the Grain Board of Iraq had rejected three wheat consignments sent to Iraq which were reportedly sold by the exporter to a company in Dubai.

(d)&(e): Government has directed the Food Corporation of India to set up cleaning facilities at Kandla port or any other port from which export takes place. FCI was also directed to ensure that no consignment of wheat is sent to Iraq unless the wheat is cleaned to meet the requirements of the Grain Board of Iraq.